TALES FROM THE TOMB

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FEATURING:

THE STRANGE SHOCKING HORROR OF

THE MONSTER OF DARKNESS

SKIN CRAWLING TERROR IN

A COFFIN FOR TWO

IS YOUR HAIR GROWING OR GOING?

Stand in front of a mirror. Take a long hard look at the top of your head. Do you have as much hair as one year ago? Do you see any new hair growth?

If your answer is no, it is important that you take steps today to save the hair you now have. If you act now, you may be able to reverse the trend on your head. You may be able to grow new hair faster than it is falling out. Doesn't that make sense to you? Wouldn't you like to look in the mirror a year from now and see more hair on your head than you see now? Why lose your hair if you don't have to?

CAN YOU SAVE YOUR HAIR?

Every year thousands of men and women go bald — needlessly — because of a scalp infection. This scalp infection is called seborrhea. Doctors say that three germ organisms cause seborrhea: staphyloccocus albus, pityrosporum ovale, and microbacillus. These germs attack the sebacious glands and the hair follicles themselves. If not checked, permament damage is done. The hair follicles atrophy, lose their ability to produce new hairs. The result: premature baldness.

You can easily tell if you are a victim of seborrhea. If you have itchy scalp, dandruff, hair loss, very dry or oily scalp, the chances are that you have seborrhea. Neglect these symptoms and you invite baldness.

Treat your scalp to Ward's Formula. This amazing scalp medicine quickly controls seborrhea and stops the hair loss it causes.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

In seconds, Ward's Formula kills the three parasitic germ organisms retarding normal hair growth. This swift germicidal action has been proven in scientific tests by a world-famous testing laboratory (copy of laboratory report sent on request). Ward's removes infectious dandruff, stops scalp itch, brings hair-nourishing blood to the scalp, tends to normalize very dry or oily scalp. In brief Ward's Formula corrects the ugly symptoms of seborrhea, stops the hair loss it causes. Ward's Formula has been tried by more than 550,000 men and women on our famous Double-Your-Money-Back Guarantee. Only 1.9% of these men and women were not helped by Ward's and asked for their double refund. This is truly an amazing performance.

Why not join the men and women who have successfully ended their troubles? Treat your scalp with Ward's Formula. *Try it at our risk.* In only 10 days you must see and feel the marked improvement in your scalp and hair. Your dandruff must be gone. Your scalp itch must stop. Your hair must look thicker, more attractive, and alive. Your excessive hair loss must stop. You must be completely satisfied—in only 10 days—with the improved condition of your scalp and hair, or simply return the unused portion for Double Your Money Back. So why delay? Delay may cost your hair.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc., 19 West 44 Street, N. Y. 36, N. Y. © 1963

Doctors and hospitals can obtain professional samples of Ward's Formula on written request.

Here's the Proof!

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.
E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the *most* help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no *dandruff!* *W. T. W., Portola, Cal.*

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

Male pattern baldness is the cause of the great majority of cases of baldness and excessive hair loss, for which neither the Ward treatment nor any other treatment is effective.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc. Dept. 14736
19 West 44 Street, New York, N. Y. 10036

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I must be completely satisfied in only 10 days or you GUARANTEE refund of DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name .....
Address .....
City ..... State ..... Zip .....

☐ Enclosed find $2, send postpaid (check, cash, money order)
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman $2 plus 76 cents in postal charges (save the 76 cents by enclosing $2)
☐ Send triple size for $5. You save $1.

Canadian, foreign, add 50 cents — No C.O.D.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

TALES FROM THE TOMB

CONTENTS FOR JANUARY 1973 VOL. 5 NO. 1

MONSTERS OF DARKNESS 4

Out of the foul fumes of hot bubbling acid the thing crawled and opened a world of incredible horror for two innocent beings.

A COFFIN FOR TWO 11

A gory rip-off about a killer, with the soul of a sewer rat, who joined his victim in the odious coffin built for two.

MASK OF HORROR 16

Unknown forces compel a Russian officer in the Red Army to profane the mask of the Chinese Dragon God and in turn he becomes the most tortured man in the world.

THE EVIL ONES 23

A strange and haunting tale of waterfront terror that ends in a frenzy of endless death.

CASTLE OF THE DEAD 30

A gambler becomes the victim of an ancient curse that almost became a vortex of stark raving mad horror for him and his bride.

THE DEVIL'S FIDDLE 37

Out of the depths of evil came strange forces and a terrifying bargain that only Satan could have devised.

FIENDS FROM THE CRYPT 44

From the ancient catacombs of Rome swarmed the horrible army with bone-crunching jaws slavering for blood and the destruction of the human race.

CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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MONSTER of DARKNESS

OUT OF THE ***FOUL*** AND ***DEADLY*** FUMES OF A BUBBLING ACID...OUT OF THE ***BLACK STEAMING*** BREATH OF AN EVIL EVENING...THERE COMES A STRANGE FIGURE, SPAWNED TO BRING UNBELIEVABLE HORROR!

A MEMORABLE OCCASION FOR TWO YOUNG NEWLY WEDS... MOMENTS CAUGHT FOREVER IN THE CAMERA LENS--BUT SEARING THE CRUMBLING SOUL OF A FIEND OOZING WITH HATRED!
MY, AREN'T THOSE YOUNGSTERS HAPPY?
WOULD YOU DEVELOP THESE PICTURES FOR ME, CARLING? THEY WERE TAKEN ON MY HONEYMOON!
I'D BE GLAD TO! ESPECIALLY FOR SUCH AN EVENT AS THIS!
IDIOTS! I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I HAVE SEEN THEIR SMILING FACES FROZEN WITH WILD FRIGHT!
WEIRD AND FRIGHTENING SOUNDS TROUBLE THE SILENCE OF THE BROODING NIGHT AS AN OBSESSED MAN LABORS TO CREATE A FORM OUT OF A BLACK VOID!
BOIL, DEADLY ACID OF PESTILENCE AND HORROR!! BOIL UNTIL YOU HAVE GIVEN FORTH MY CREATURE OF ETERNAL DARKNESS TO STRIKE TERROR!!
COME, MY PRETTY ONE, YOU MUST SERVE YOUR FIRST PURPOSE IN THIS OTHER WORLD! YOU ARE THE WEAPON OF MY REVENGE!!
HERE ARE YOUR PICTURES, MY FRIEND!
THANKS!
HE'S A STRANGE OLD BIRD!
5

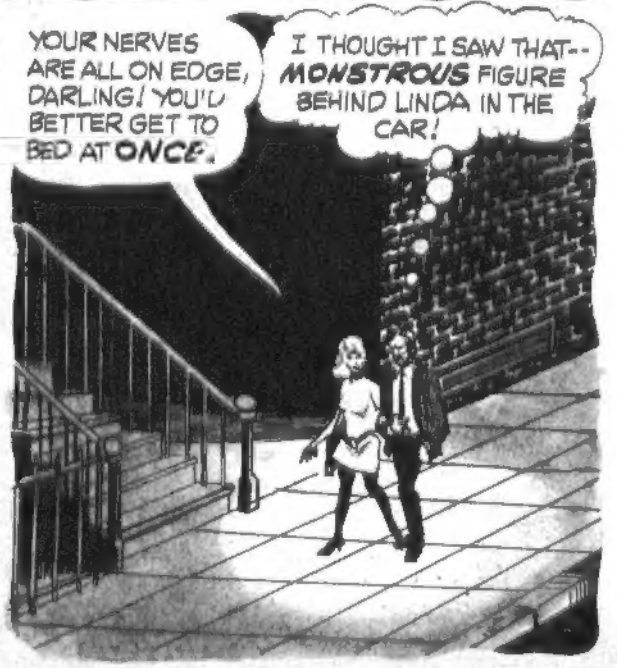
ARE THESE THE PICTURES OF THE HONEYMOON, FRED?
SURE! LET'S TAKE A LOOK-- WH--?!

SUDDENLY, A YOUNG DREAM PROJECTED ON FILM BY A HARMLESS CAMERA CRUMBLES AND IS REPLACED BY SHADOWS OF SLIMY IMAGES OF REVULSION...
L-LOOK! THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE IN ALL OF THE PICTURES... SOMETHING HORRIBLE!
FRED!! UGH-H-H!!

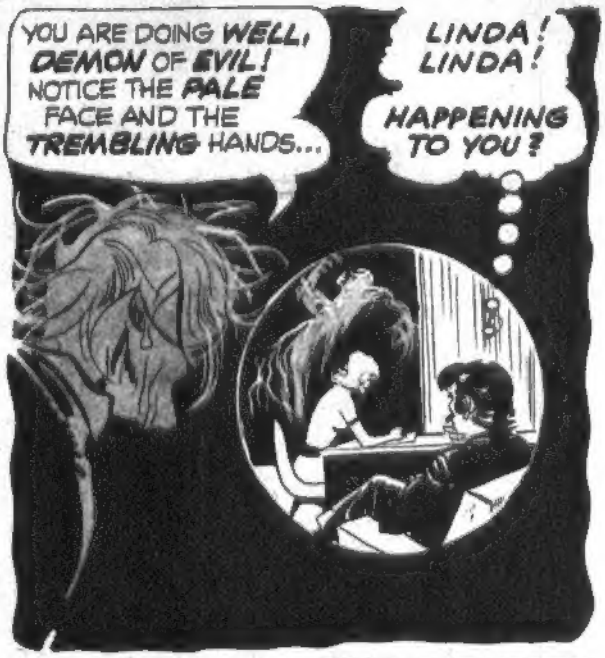
WHERE DID HE COME FROM? AND WHY IS HE STANDING BEHIND YOU THAT WAY?
I DON'T KNOW FRED! I'M FRIGHTENED!!

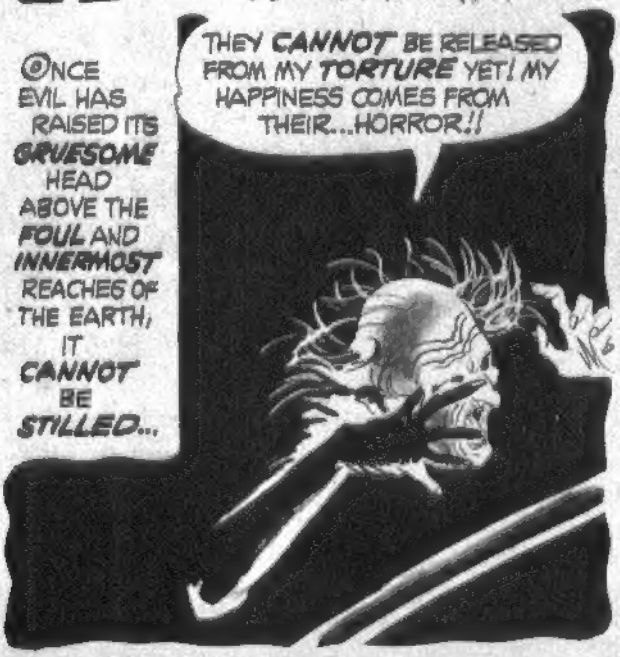
I'M SURE THERE'S SOME LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR THOSE PICTURES, FRED!
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, LINDA. BUT IT'S VERY STRANGE! AND THE GHASTLY FACE OF THAT MAN!

A QUICK FLASH OF LIGHT ON THE WINDOW-- AND THE YOUNG HUSBAND IS CONFRONTED WITH A VISION OF EVIL THAT SETS HIS MIND WHIRLING DOWN PATHWAYS OF FEAR!
NO! NO! IT COULDN'T BE!! AH-H-H!
FRED! WHAT'S THE MATTER?


YOUR NERVES ARE ALL ON EDGE, DARLING! YOU'D BETTER GET TO BED AT ONCE.
I THOUGHT I SAW THAT-- MONSTROUS FIGURE BEHIND LINDA IN THE CAR!

AS THE DAYS PASS, THE REPULSIVE GREEN SHAPE STILL STANDS BY THE YOUNG WIFE. A TWISTED SOUL SURVEYS THE SCENE WITH DELIGHT AND TRIUMPH.





A "RELATIVE" COMES TO PAY HIS RESPECTS-- BUT WHAT IS THE **SHARP** PANG OF **FEAR** THAT CUTS AT THE HUSBAND'S HEART, AND THE SHADOW THAT HANGS ABOVE THE VISITOR?

GOOD EVENING, FRED. I AM **WILLIAM!**

WH-WHY, **HELLO!!** WON'T YOU COME IN?

I'M **VERY** GLAD TO MEET YOU, WILLIAM!! YOU LOOK **EXACTLY** LIKE YOUR MOTHER!

THANK YOU, LINDA!

HE LOOKS **ODD** TO **ME!** HIS FACE IS LIKE **MARBLE--**

AS THE GUEST SETTLES DOWN FOR HIS VISIT, A **GRAY** AND **SINISTER** PALL SETTLES OVER THE MARRIAGE--

THEY'RE ALWAYS **LAUGHING** AND **CHATTERING** TOGETHER-- SHE HARDLY NOTICES ME...

FRED MUST **NEVER** KNOW ABOUT US--DO YOU UNDERSTAND? WE MUST BE **EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS!**

OF COURSE, MY LOVE! YOU CAN TRUST **ME!**

LINDA! NO!! YOU WOULDN'T--

WHAT'S WRONG, FRED? YOU'RE AS WHITE AS A **SHEET!**

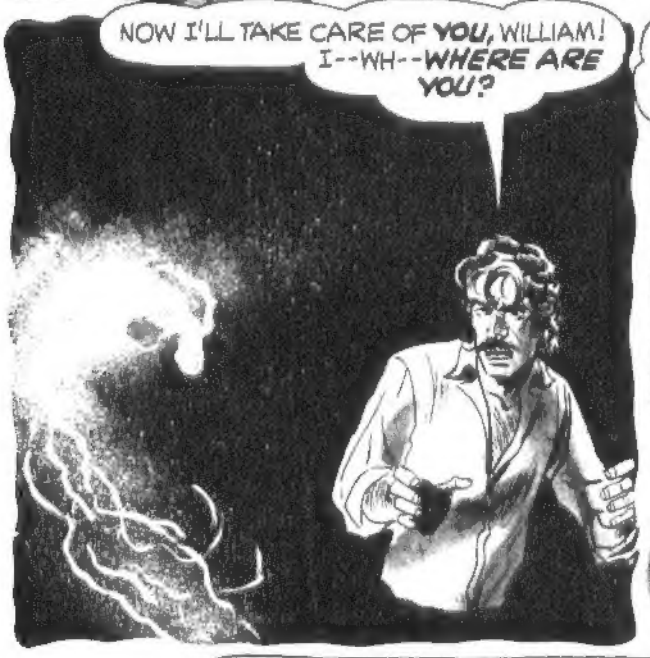
I CAN FEEL AN **ICY WIND** WHEN SHE COMES NEAR ME... LIKE THE MOVEMENT OF A **DEAD SPIRIT!**

WILLIAM IS COMING BETWEEN US!! I WISH I WERE RID OF **BOTH** OF THEM!!

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOUR **YOUNG LOVE,** MY **ROMANTIC** FRIEND? HEH! HEH! HEH!

WELL! I'VE CAUGHT THEM AGAIN! DO THEY THINK I'M A BLIND FOOL? MY GOOD FAITHFUL WIFE--I'LL KILL HER!!

A MAD LUNGE FORWARD, EYES BLAZING WITH WRATH, AND TEN STRONG FINGERS PRESSING THE LIFE FROM THEIR TERRIFIED VICTIM!
DIE!!
FRED! DON'T! AAAAGGHHH!!


NOW I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, WILLIAM! I--WH--WHERE ARE YOU?

YOU!! THE CREATURE OF THE PICTURES! THEN WHERE IS WILLIAM? WHAT ARE YOU--OH, NO! NO-OO-O-O!!

IT'S WORK OF EVIL COMPLETED, THE PALE SPECTRE RETURNS DUTIFULLY TO ITS MASTER.. ...A FAINT SMILE PLAYING ABOUT ITS WHITE LIPS...
WELCOME BACK, MY BEAUTY!! YOU HAVE PERFORMED YOUR SERVICES WELL--AND NOW YOU MUST RETURN TO THE LAND BEYOND THE GRAVE!!

I'LL SIMPLY POUR YOU INTO THIS LARGE BOTTLE--LIKE AN ORDINARY CHEMICAL--AND NOBODY WILL KNOW YOU EVER EXISTED---

SUDDENLY, A VOICE IS HEARD OUT OF THE DARKNESS, LIKE THE SIGN OF THE WIND PASSING OVER A TOMB!
NO! I WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED NOW!! YOU HAVE RELEASED ME FROM THE LAND BEYOND THE GRAVE!
WH--!?
I WON'T LIVE WITH A HIDEOUS BEING LIKE YOU BESIDE ME--ALWAYS!! I MADE YOU! I CAN DESTROY YOU!!
YOU ARE FOOLISH TO THINK SO!!
I'LL ESCAPE FROM HERE! YOU WON'T FIND ME!
YOU KNOW YOU CANNOT LEAVE HERE! YOUR EVIL--LIKE MINE--HAS FORCED YOU TO DWELL ONLY IN DARKNESS--WHERE YOU CANNOT BE SEEN!
MOVING BACK FROM THE LOATHESOME CREATION OF HIS EVIL, THE OLD MAN IS FORCED AGAINST THE HUGE VAT OF BUBBLING ACID AND...
KEEP AWAY FROM ME... LEAVE ME ALONE!! NO... NO, DON'T!! YOU.... AH-H-H-H-H-H!!
E!RGH-GHGHGG!!!
...AND IN THE DARKENED HOUSE THAT HAS BECOME LINDA'S TOMB, A SMILING, UNWARY COUSIN WILLIAM, APPEARS, INNOCENTLY GREETING A MAN WHOSE BRAIN HAS CRACKED....
HELLO, FRED... I'M WILLIAM! WHERE'S LINDA?
HELLO, WILLIAM! COME RIGHT IN! I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU.
FRED WAS ALSO IN FOR A SURPRISE. COUSIN WILLIAM IS A PSYCHIATRIST TO THE CRIMINALLY INSANE AT THE STATE PRISON WHERE FRED IS NOW A PERMANENT RESIDENT.
The End!

"RAGS" TOOLEY WAS A BRUTAL KILLER WITH THE SOUL OF A SEWER RAT!! HE ALWAYS COMPLAINED THAT NO ONE EVER GAVE HIM ANYTHING—BUT HE WAS ***DEAD WRONG!***

A COFFIN FOR TWO

I'VE BEEN ***WAITING*** FOR YOU, RAGS...I KNOW YOU WON'T ***LET AN OLD FRIEND DOWN*** WITHOUT TRYING TO ***GIVE HIM A HAND!!*** HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!

ONE NIGHT IN ONE OF THE BACK ALLEYS, RAGS TOOLEY AND LOUIE LAZUR MEET TO DIVIDE THE SPOILS....

OKAY, LOUIE—HERE'S YOUR SHARE OF THE TAKE!

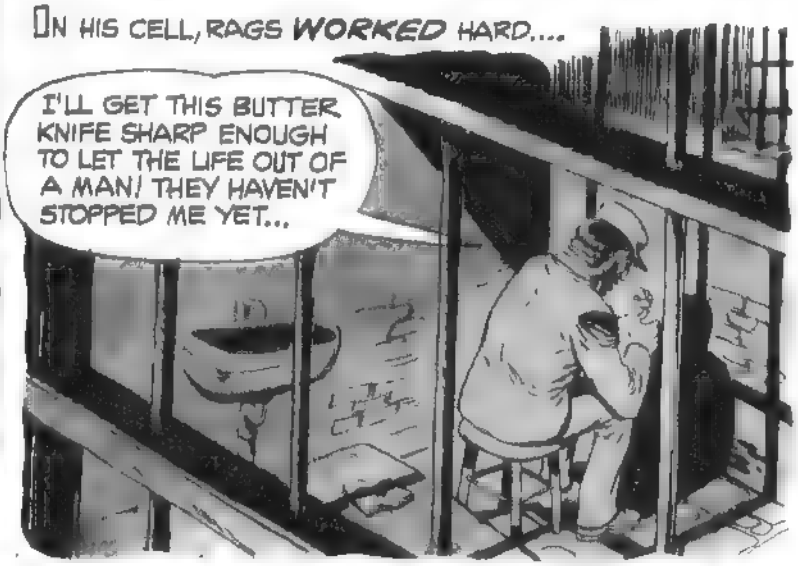
YEAH? WELL, I STILL SAY IT WAS WORTH MORE THAN YOU'RE GIVING ME! DON'T CROSS ME, RAGS!

ME? CROSS A FRIEND? HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A THING, LOUIE...

ARRGHRRGH!

LIKE A FRIGHTENED **GHOUL** DISCOVERED FEEDING ON THE **CORPSE** OF A **VICTIM**, RAGS SCUTTLED DOWN THE **ALLEYWAY** TO FIND HIS ESCAPE BLOCKED BY A BLANK WALL!!

ON HIS CELL, RAGS **WORKED** HARD....

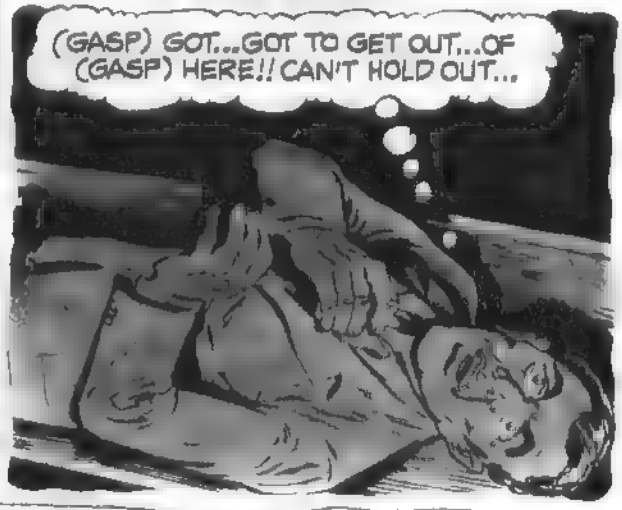


THEN ONE NIGHT, RAGS CALLED THE GUARD OVER AND...

THE PRISON SIREN **WAILED** AND SEARCHLIGHTS **STABBED** THE CORNERS OF THE JAIL-YARD, TRYING TO FIND RAGS TOOLEY!!

THE SMELL OF DEATH WAS IN THE SILENT ROOM! IT MADE RAGS STOMACH FLOP LIKE A DEAD FISH WHEN HE REACHED OUT HIS HAND TO TOUCH THE CLAMMY SHEET AND HE SAW....
WHAT THE DEVIL....IT... IT'S LOUIE!!
HIS BODY IS COLD AND STIFF — BUT I'LL MAKE YOU SERVE ME AGAIN, LOUIE....EVEN IN DEATH!! HURRY....I HAVE TO HURRY...
WITH LOUIE'S CLOTHES ON INSTEAD OF MINE, MAYBE I CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS....
WE HAVEN'T LOOKED HERE YET.. ...HURRY UP...
HE'S NOT IN HERE...
YEAH! C'MON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
I'LL TELL JAKE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR HIM!
HUMPH! TELLING ME TO WATCH FOR A LIVE MAN IN THIS PLACE, WHY.. ...WHAT TH...
OH-OH, SOMEBODY'S STILL HERE...
...BUT...BUT I TELL YOU I SAW IT RISE WITH MY OWN EYES!!
THIS IS LOUIE LAZUR, AND HE'S GOING TO BE BURIED...RIGHT NOW!
THE PRISON BREAK HAS MADE YOU JUMPY JAKE!

INSIDE THE **COFFIN**, RAGS TOOLEY **GASPS** FOR AIR, AND **TERROR** FREEZES HIS WARM BLOOD AS HE REALIZES HE IS BEING CARRIED TO HIS **GRAVE**....



MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE MORGUE...

IN A DINGY ROOM, RAGS TOOLEY SLEPT AFTER HIS ESCAPE! HE STIRRED UNEASILY AS HE DREAMED THAT THE GHOST OF LOUIE LAZUR HAUNTED HIM...OR WAS IT JUST A DREAM?

AHHH — I HAVE FOUND YOU....AND I FOUND THE CLOTHES FOR MY ***ETERNAL SLEEP***...FAREWELL, RAGS...WE MAY MEET AGAIN!!

OHOOO...

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, RAGS AWOKE...

BRRRR...IT'S GOTTEN COLD... AND IT ***SMELLS JUST LIKE A MORGUE!!*** HOW DID THIS GET HERE? I MUST HAVE LEFT LOUIE HIS OLD JACKET AFTER PUTTING THE MONEY IN IT!! I ***HAVE*** TO GET IT BACK...

SO THEY BURIED HIM ALREADY...JUST AS I THOUGHT! WELL, I'D BETTER DIG HIM UP!

NOW TO...UH.... LIFT THE LID AND...UH... GET THAT... JACKET....

BUT SUDDENLY IN THE SILENT NIGHT, THERE IS A GLARE OF LIGHT LIKE A LIGHTNING FLASH, AND THEN...

THERE HE IS... HIDIN' IN THAT GRAVE!!

NO...DON'T! NO... ***NO... NO... ARRRRAGH!***

BANG!

BANG!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW!! THAT'S JUSTICE FOR YOU...HE ENDED UP RIGHT IN THE COFFIN OF THE ***MAN HE KILLED!!***

YEAH...WELL, THEY CAN SPEND ***ETERNITY TOGETHER!!***

The End

MASK OF HORROR

MYSTERIOUS FORCES, WHICH HAVE EXISTED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, STILL FORM POWERFUL INFLUENCES AS GREGORZ IVANOVITCH, A SOVIET "ADVISER" TO THE CHINESE COMMUNIST ARMY, COULD PROBABLY TELL YOU! GREGORZ ENCOUNTERED THE STRANGE CHINESE POWER DURING A VISIT TO THE SHOP OF *WANG HSUI*.

THIS IS JUST A REMINDER THAT THE PARTY TAKES WANTS ... AND THOSE WHO OBJECT SOON CEASE TO EXIST!

STOP IT! IT CANNOT BE THAT YOU DO THIS DREADFUL THING TO MY FATHER ... THE DESCENDANT OF ANCIENT EMPERORS!

AHA! VERY PRETTY! SO YOU DO NOT LIKE WHAT I DO TO YOUR PAPA, EH?
SEN-SHU! MUST YOU TOO BECOME PART OF THIS DISGRACE BEFORE INFERIORS!

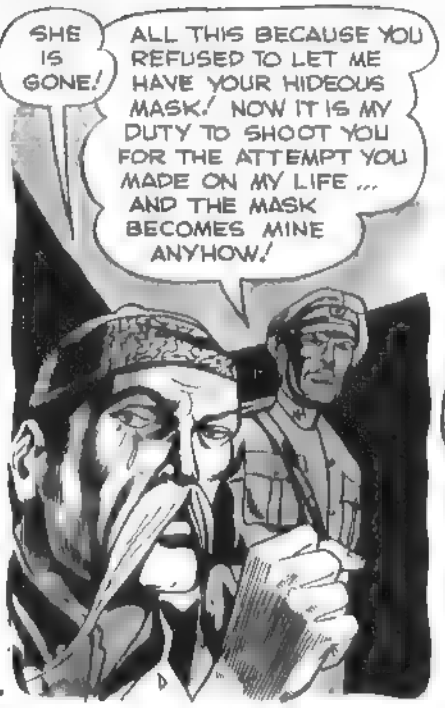
COMRADE... IT IS BETTER WE LEAVE THESE PEOPLE ALONE!
YOU STILL HAVE RESPECT FOR THESE POMPOUS FOOLS WITH THEIR STUPID SUPERSTITIONS, KUANG?

AS HIS DAUGHTER FOUGHT IN THE ARMS OF GREGORZ, WANG HSUI STEALTHILY REACHED FOR AN OLD SWORD ON THE WALL...
SWORD OF MY ANCESTORS... FIND YOUR MARK!

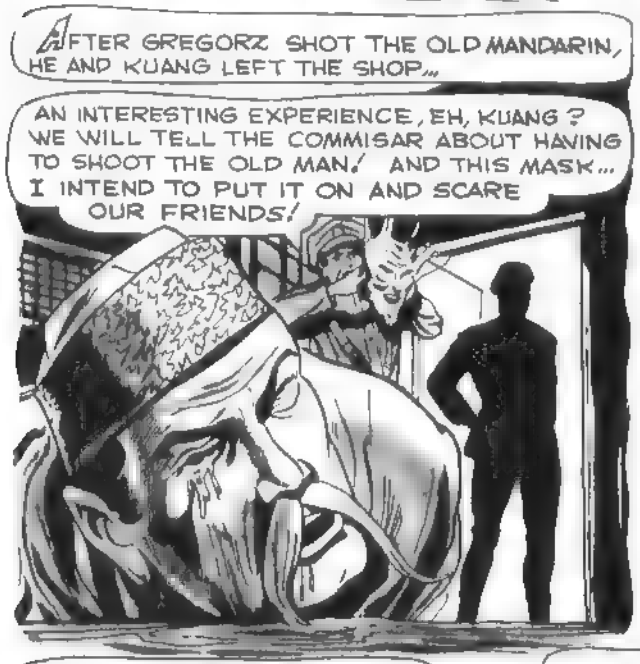
THE OLD MAN IS NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER OLD MAN ... THE GIRL IS JUST A GIRL! PRETTY ENOUGH TO KISS...
WATCH OUT, GREGORZ!

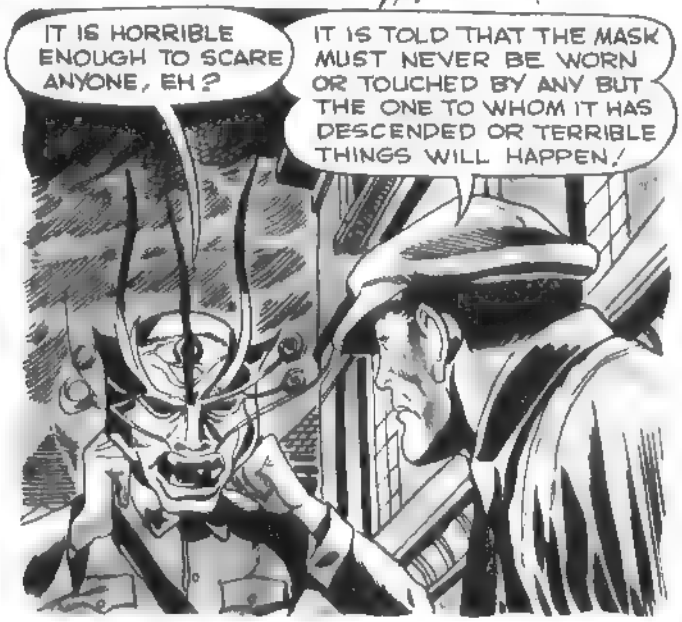
AT KUANG'S WARNING, GREGORZ WHIRLED, USING THE GIRL IN HIS ARMS AS A SHIELD AGAINST WANG HSUI'S PLUNGING SWORD...
HA! YOU HAVE LOST MORE THAN FACE NOW! YOU HAVE MURDERED YOUR OWN DAUGHTER!

SEN-SHU, MY DAUGHTER! W-WHAT HAVE I DONE ?!!
IT IS BETTER THAT I DIE AFTER THE BARBARIAN HAS SO DISHONORED ONE WHO BEARS YOUR NAME!


SHE IS GONE!
ALL THIS BECAUSE YOU REFUSED TO LET ME HAVE YOUR HIDEOUS MASK! NOW IT IS MY DUTY TO SHOOT YOU FOR THE ATTEMPT YOU MADE ON MY LIFE ... AND THE MASK BECOMES MINE ANYHOW!

YOU ARE LUCKY I GIVE YOU AN END SO QUICK!


AFTER GREGORZ SHOT THE OLD MANDARIN, HE AND KUANG LEFT THE SHOP...
AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE, EH, KUANG? WE WILL TELL THE COMMISAR ABOUT HAVING TO SHOOT THE OLD MAN! AND THIS MASK... I INTEND TO PUT IT ON AND SCARE OUR FRIENDS!


IT IS HORRIBLE ENOUGH TO SCARE ANYONE, EH?
IT IS TOLD THAT THE MASK MUST NEVER BE WORN OR TOUCHED BY ANY BUT THE ONE TO WHOM IT HAS DESCENDED OR TERRIBLE THINGS WILL HAPPEN!

SILLY SUPERSTITIONS! I WILL WEAR THE MASK AND NOTHING WILL HAPPEN!

AS THE SOULS OF WANG HSUI AND SEN SHU REACH THE EDGE OF THE ULTIMATE VACUITY, THEY INVOKED THE FORM OF THEIR GUARDIAN SPIRIT...
BEFORE WE JOIN OUR ANCESTORS, GRANT US VENGEANCE... ENABLE US TO WIPE OUT THE STIGMA BROUGHT UPON THE HONORABLE SYMBOL OF OUR ANCIENT AND GREAT LINEAGE!

FROM THE VASTNESS OF SPACE, WANG HSUI AND HIS DAUGHTER RECEIVE THEIR ANSWER ...
I, WHO HAVE LONG BEEN THE SYMBOL OF YOUR PEOPLE, ALREADY DECREED RETRIBUTION FOR THOSE WHO KNOW NOTHING OF HONOR AND RESPECT!

WATCH, O WANG HSUI AND SEN SHU, AS I GRANT YOUR REQUEST! THERE ARE POWERS AND PUNISHMENTS BEYOND THE ABILITY OF SUCH AS GREGORZ IVANOVITCH ...

BUT GREGORZ WAS ANTICIPATING THE MANY PRANKS HE COULD PLAY WITH THE MASK ...
THIS WILL BE REALLY FUNNY, KUANG! WATCH! THERE IS MAXIM ASLEEP! HE ALWAYS HAS NIGHTMARES! HE DREAMS OF MONSTERS ...

YOU TURN OUT THE LIGHT, KUANG, AS I SPRING AT MAXIM! THE MASK GLOWS IN THE DARK! ALL HERE WILL BE TERRIFIED!
AS YOU SAY, GREGORZ ...

AS THE LIGHTS WENT OUT...
YAHHHH! WHAT IS IT? THAT CREATURE!
BOO

YOU STUPID COWARDS! IT IS NOTHING BUT A MASK! HA! HAH! SEEING YOUR FRIGHTENED FACES MADE IT WORTH ALL THE TROUBLE I TOOK TO GET IT!
GREGORZ! Y-YOUR FACE! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO IT!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MY FACE?
YOUR NOSE! ONE EYE! GONE ... AND AS THOUGH THEY NEVER WERE THERE! NOTHING BUT BLANK SPACES IN YOUR FACE!
STUPID LOUTS! YOU ARE TRYING TO PAY ME BACK FOR SHOWING YOU UP AS COWARDS ...! BUT... BUT IT IS TRUE! I SEE NOTHING FROM THAT EYE ... AND...
IT IS THE MASK, GREGORZ! I TOLD YOU! IT IS WORN ONLY FOR CEREMONIAL WORSHIP OF THE DRAGON GOD!
MY EYE! MY NOSE! NO! IT CANNOT BE! SUCH THINGS DO NOT HAPPEN! EEEIIII!
THAT ACCURSED THING! I DO NOT KNOW HOW... BUT IT HAS PUT SOME KIND OF SPELL ON ME!
I...I DON'T LIKE THIS BUSINESS! I'M GETTING OUT!
COME BACK! YOU ARE MY COMRADES! YOU CANNOT LEAVE ME TO FACE THIS THING ALONE! THERE MUST BE AN ANSWER!
ONLY YOU CAN FIND THE ANSWER, GREGORZ!
WHO SAID THAT! AGHHHHH! IT IS THE MASK! IT... IT HAS A LIFE OF ITS OWN! GO AWAY... EEEOOWWW!
I HAVE MANY LIVES, GREGORZ... AND I CANNOT GO AWAY UNTIL I TAKE YOU WITH ME! YOU WILL FIND THAT YOU NEED ME, GREGORZ!
IF YOU LOOK INTO THE MIRROR, GREGORZ, YOU WILL SEE THAT YOU ARE LOSING YOUR FACE! ALL THAT IS LEFT IS ONE EYE! AND SOON THAT WILL BE GONE! SOON YOU WILL NOT SEE, SPEAK OR EAT UNLESS YOU WEAR ME TO REPLACE THE FACE YOU HAVE LOST!
IT IS TRUE! I... I CANNOT SPEAK ... BECAUSE I HAVE NO MOUTH! EYAHHH!

IT IS A TRICK! I... I MUST GET OUT OF HERE! I... I WON'T WEAR THE ACCURSED MASK AGAIN! AIEEEEE! I... I CANNOT SEE!
I TOLD YOU, GREGORZ! YOU CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT A FACE! REACH OUT YOUR HAND! HERE I AM... PUT ME ON!

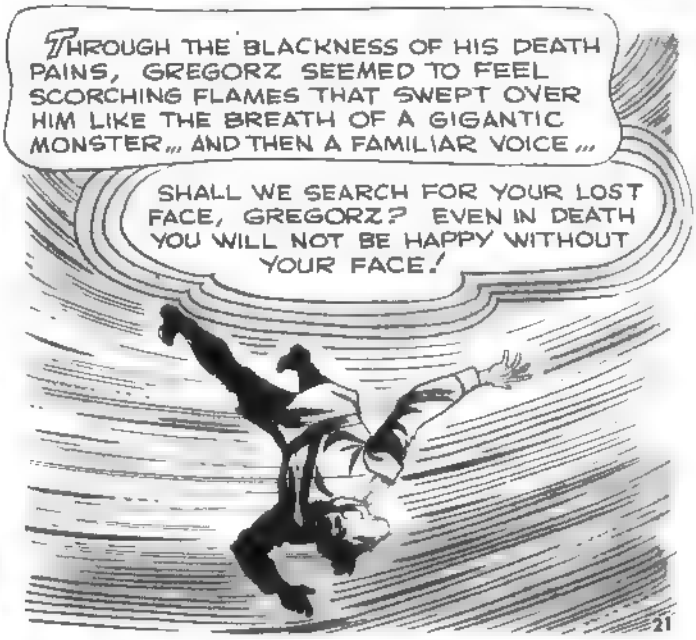
GREGORZ'S TERROR-STRICKEN HANDS GRASPED THE MASK AND, SICK WITH REVULSION, PLACED IT OVER HIS BLANK FACE...
THERE IS NOTHING ELSE FOR ME TO DO!

WHEREVER HE WENT IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, GREGORZ FACED RIDICULE, FEAR...

HIS PLIGHT BECAME AN OFFICIAL MATTER...
GREGORZ IVANOVITCH, YOU ARE MAKING THE SERVICE RIDICULOUS! AND SINCE YOU CAN NEITHER SEE NOR SPEAK EXCEPT THROUGH THAT GROTESQUE MASK... IT IS BETTER TO END THIS EPISODE BY LIQUIDATING YOU!

TAKE THAT HORRIBLE THING FROM HIS FACE AND SHOOT HIM! IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO BLINDFOLD HIM... SINCE HE HAS NO EYES IN THAT SILLY BLANK FACE!

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM


THROUGH THE BLACKNESS OF HIS DEATH PAINS, GREGORZ SEEMED TO FEEL SCORCHING FLAMES THAT SWEPT OVER HIM LIKE THE BREATH OF A GIGANTIC MONSTER... AND THEN A FAMILIAR VOICE...
SHALL WE SEARCH FOR YOUR LOST FACE, GREGORZ? EVEN IN DEATH YOU WILL NOT BE HAPPY WITHOUT YOUR FACE!

HERE, GREGORZ! EVEN IN DEATH YOU MUST WEAR THE MASK YOU TOOK FROM ME!
I... I MUST TAKE IT! I CANNOT PLEAD FOR MERCY UNLESS I CAN SPEAK!

DON'T... DON'T TORTURE ME LIKE THIS... SHOW ME WHERE I CAN FIND MY FACE... MY OWN FACE!

WE ARE FREE NOW, FATHER, TO GO BEFORE OUR ANCESTORS... AS GREGORZ IVANOVITCH FACES HIS ETERNAL SEARCH!
THE DRAGON'S MASK WILL BE PURIFIED IN THE FLAMES!

MY FACE... MY OWN FACE...! AH... THERE IT IS! NO... IT ISN'T... THIS MASK... IF I CAN BUT RID MYSELF OF IT AND FIND MY OWN FACE! I MUST! I MUST!

MY FACE! THERE IT IS! EVEN THE FLAMES DO NOT MATTER! NOTHING MATTERS! JUST SO I FIND MY OWN FACE...!

AND GREGORZ'S COMRADES WERE ASTOUNDED AS...
LOOK! IN DEATH GREGORZ'S FEATURES HAVE BEEN RESTORED! BUT THE DRAGON'S MASK! IT... IT HAS DISAPPEARED! NO ONE CAN FIND IT!
HOW PEACEFUL GREGORZ LOOKS!
The End

STRANGE AND UNHOLY ARE THOSE WHO HAUNT THE DOCKS... AS STRANGE AS THE SHADOWY SLUMS THROUGH WHICH THEY WANDER! AND AMONG THEM THERE IS ALWAYS ONE WHO WOULD GIVE HIS SOUL TO BE KING OF THE WATERFRONT!

THE EVIL ONES

AS "SLASH" CARVER, BOSS OF THE WATERFRONT CONFERS WITH HIS BOYS, BENNY APPROACHES...

WHY, YOU CRUMMY LITTLE JERK! GET AWAY FROM ME!
AWRIGHT, SLASH... I WAS ONLY ASKIN'!
HAW-HAW! YELLOW BELLY BENNY WANTS TO BE A BIG SHOT!

WHAT I'D GIVE TO BE KING OF THE WATERFRONT! I'D SHOW HIM! BOY, I'D GIVE ANYTHING!

WOULD YOU, BENNY?
HUH? HEY, I DIDN'T SAY... HOW'D YOU KNOW WHAT I...?

I COULD HELP YOU, BENNY GLIP! I COULD MAKE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT TO BE, BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO PROVE YOURSELF FIRST BY KILLING SOMEONE!
K-KILL SOME...? B-BUT I COULDN'T!

YES YOU COULD! YOU'RE JUST AS BIG AS ANYBODY ELSE AROUND HERE!
SURE, SARRA... SURE I AM! I COULD KNOCK OFF A GUY JUST LIKE SLASH DOES OR ANY OF 'EM! WHO DO I KILL?

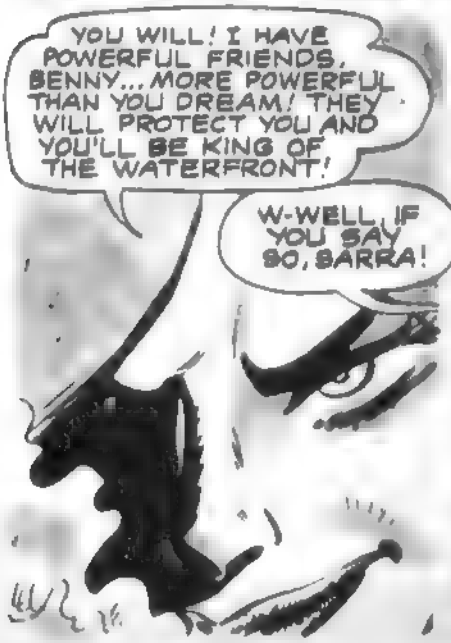
I'LL TELL YOU LATER! GO TO MY ROOM AND WAIT!
OKAY, SARRA!
TIME TO GET GOIN' BOYS!

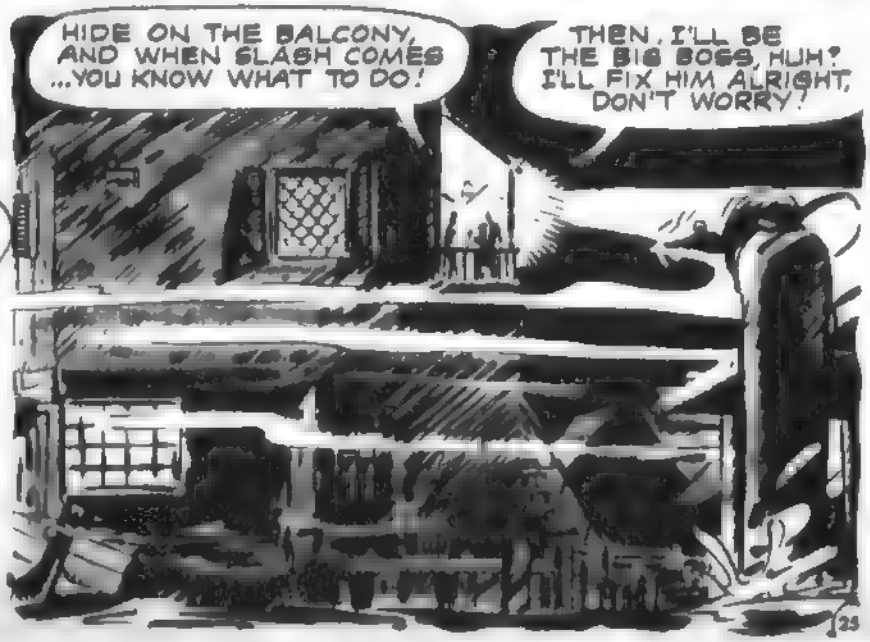
HEY, SARRA! YA BEEN HIDIN' OUT ON ME LATELY, HONEY?
I'M HERE, NOW, SLASH! WHY NOT DROP UP TO MY PLACE LATER TONIGHT!

SWELL, BABY...SOON AS THE BOYS AN ME DO A LITTLE JOB! SEE YOU LATER!
THE BOSS IS SURE NUTS ABOUT THAT DAME! SHE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

ME TOO! THAT DAME SPELLS BAD TROUBLE!
IF ALL GOES WELL, MY WORK SHOULD BE DONE SOON! THE BLACK ONES WILL BE VERY PLEASED TONIGHT!

MINUTES LATER, IN SARRA'S ROOM OVER-HANGING THE HARBOR...
NOW, BENNY, LISTEN TO ME...SLASH CARVER WILL BE HERE SOON ALONE! YOU ARE GOING TO KILL HIM!
N-NOT SLASH, SARRA! I--I'M SCARED OF 'IM! I--I...


YOU WILL! I HAVE POWERFUL FRIENDS, BENNY... MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU DREAM! THEY WILL PROTECT YOU AND YOU'LL BE KING OF THE WATERFRONT!
W-WELL, IF YOU SAY SO, SARRA!


HIDE ON THE BALCONY, AND WHEN SLASH COMES ...YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
THEN, I'LL BE THE BIG BOSS, HUH? I'LL FIX HIM ALRIGHT, DON'T WORRY!

MEANWHILE, IN THE SHADOWS OF THE DOCKS...
THERE'S OUR CAPTAIN, BOYS! LET'S GET THAT PEARL NOW!
YOU SURE ARE HANDY WITH THAT KNIFE, BOSS!

BUT ME, I LIKE THE WAY A GAT WORKS!
YEAH... LIKE THIS!

WHAT THE... UGGGH!
OHHHHHHH!

I GOT TH' PEARL! I'LL MEET YA BACK AT THE CLIP JOINT, BOYS! DUMP ALL THREE OF 'EM INTO THE BAY!
YOU DIRTY... OHHHH-H!

BUT AS SLASH RACES FROM THE MURDER SCENE...
WHAT'S THE HURRY, SLASH? RUNNING TO KEEP YOUR DATE WITH ME?
SARRA! LOOK, HONEY, I GOTTA MEET THE BOYS FIRST, AN'...

BUT SARRA IS LONESOME, AND IF YOU DON'T COME TO SARRA'S PLACE NOW...SARRA WILL NOT BE THERE WHEN YOU DO!
DON'T GET SORE, BABY! I'LL COME!

And SO, THE KING OF THE WATERFRONT DOUBLE-CROSSES HIS FRIENDS FOR A WOMAN...

I'M NUTS ABOUT YA, SARRA! YA WANT THE PEARL? I'LL GIVE IT TO YA! I'LL...

IT IS NOT THE PEARL I WANT, POOR FOOL...

...IT'S YOUR LIFE!

WHA...? AAAGGHHH!

WELL DONE, BENNY GLIP! NOW, SIT THERE AT THE TABLE, QUICKLY, WHILE I CALL MY FRIENDS!

C-COULDN'T WE GET RID OF--OF--?

COME, OH, EVIL ONES! COME MY UNDEAD ANCESTORS WHO WALK THE EARTH IN DARKNESS! THIS MAN HAS KILLED FOR US! COME TO HIM, ALL POWERFUL SPIRITS!

S-SARRA! W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

WE ARE HERE MURDEROUS ONE TO MAKE YOU WHAT YOU DESIRE TO BE! BUT FIRST... YOU MUST PROMISE TO JOIN US AT THE MOMENT OF YOUR EARTHLY DEATH!

DON'T TOUCH ME, YOU DEVILS!

ANSWER US, QUICKLY! WILL YOU WALK THE EARTH WITH US AFTER DEATH?

YES, YES, ANYTHING! GET THEM AWAY FROM ME, SARRA!

TERRORIZED, BENNY FAINTS...

THEN, FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE... YOU ARE KING OF THE WATERFRONT! BUT WE WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU!!

I'M KING OF... OHH-H...

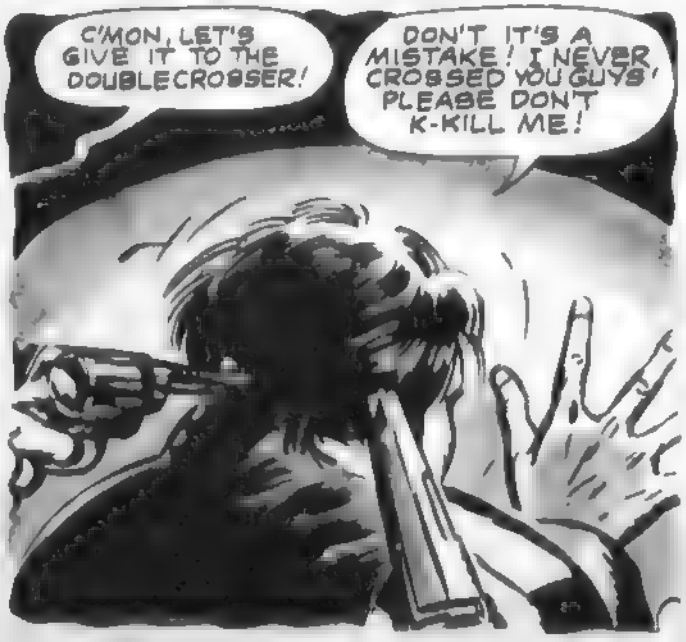
MOMENTS LATER, A BODY PLUNGES INTO THE PITCH-BLACK WATER BELOW, AND...
GOOD RIDDANCE, MY FRIEND! YOU'VE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE! AH, HERE THEY ARE!

...AND MY WORK IS DONE! BENNY! BENNY, WAKE UP!
OPEN UP, SLASH! WE KNOW YER THERE!
HUH? WHA...?

AWRIGHT, WE'LL BREAK IT IN!
WHAT--WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE...WHAT ARE THEM HORRIBLE...??

WHAT DID I TELL YA? THERE'S THE PEARL! TH' LOUSE WAS GONNA GIVE IT TO THE DAME!
WHAT ARE YA TALKIN' ABOUT? I GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH NO PEARL!! SARRA...!

SARRA! TELL 'EM I DIDN'T... SARRA!! YOU-- YOU'RE ONE OF THEM!
MY WORK IS DONE! BUT WE WILL MEET AGAIN! HA-HA-HA!
WHO'S HE TALKIN' TO? IS HE BATS... I DON'T SEE NOBODY!


C'MON, LET'S GIVE IT TO THE DOUBLECROSSER!
DON'T IT'S A MISTAKE! I NEVER CROSSED YOU GUYS! PLEASE DON'T K-KILL ME!

BUT, AS BENNY RACES IN BLIND TERROR, TOWARD THE WINDOWS...
YA GOT THE WRONG GUY, I TELL YA'...D-DON'T SHOOT! DON'T!
HA! HA! LOOK AT 'IM RUN! THE KING OF THE WATERFRONT! HA-HA-HA!
HE CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF HIMSELF IN THE GLASS AND REALIZES TO HIS HORROR, THAT THE "EVIL ONES" HAVE KEPT THEIR PROMISE... BECAUSE BENNY NOW LOOKED LIKE SLASH, KING OF THE WATERFRONT!
NO! OH, NO!
LET 'IM HAVE IT!
BANG
CRASH
NOOOOO!!
FOR, IN THE LAST FEW MINUTES OF HIS LIFE, BENNY GLIP, HAD INDEED BEEN "KING OF THE WATERFRONT..."
BLAM! BLAMB!
AGGGH--HHHHH!
And AS HIS GLAZING EYES STARE INTO THE WATER BELOW, A VOICE OF DOOM REPEATS IN HIS DYING BRAIN: "WE WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU!"
THE END

CASTLE OF THE DEAD

THE CARDS ARE SHUFFLED... AND THEN...
SIX FOR THE COUNT! AND KING FOR M'SIEU TOULOUSE! YOU HAVE WON AGAIN!
FATE HAS BEEN HARSH THIS NIGHT! HA! HA! HERE IS THE DEED MY FRIEND, HA! HA!
HA! HA! HA! AT LAST I AM RID OF THAT OLD DUNGEON, HAUNTED BY THE BONES OF ANCESTORS! YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO THE ANCIENT NAMELESS HORROR WHICH HAUNTS IT! HA! HA! HA!
IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN TO CASTLE PERDITO! HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TERROR WHICH STALKS IT?
I AM THE LAST PERDITO AND I WOULD NOT GO NEAR IT FOR ALL THE MONEY IN MONTE CARLO!
COME, THEA, LEAVE THIS ADVENTURER! PERHAPS HE WILL FIND THE TREASURE PERHAPS THE FIEND, WILL FIND HIM FIRST... HA! HA!
THEA, I WON'T BE SEPARATED FROM YOU... NOT BY ANYTHING!
I COULDN'T STAY AWAY! THEA, ELOPE WITH ME TONIGHT!
BRIAN, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME! FATHER WILL TURN THE DOGS LOOSE ON YOU!
UNABLE TO STAY AWAY FROM THEA, BRIAN STOLE INTO THE PERDITO ESTATE IN CANNES!
THEA WEAKENED TO BRIAN'S ARDENT PLEADING...
I'LL GO WITH YOU, BRIAN! JUST LET ME THROW A FEW THINGS INTO A BAG!
YOU'LL SEE, ONCE WE'RE MARRIED YOUR FATHER WILL ACCEPT ME!
A SLEEPY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE MARRIED THEM...
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!
OH, BRIAN, YOU'VE MADE ME VERY HAPPY!

WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW, BRIAN?
I'VE THOUGHT IT OVER, THEA! SINCE I HAVE THE DEED TO CASTLE PERDITO, WHY NOT SPEND OUR HONEY-MOON THERE?
AFTER A LONG DRIVE DOWN THE ITALIAN COAST THEY REACHED THE CASTLE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF TUSCANY...
BRIAN, ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT? REMEMBER THE THINGS FATHER TOLD YOU... AND IT LOOKS SO GLOOMY!
NONSENSE, THOSE STORIES ARE OLD WIVES' TALES AND EVERY CASTLE LOOKS GLOOMY! LET'S GO!
THE PLACE IS SO COLD AND FORBIDDING... ALL THESE UGLY GARGOYLES! THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A SOUL AROUND!
WAIT... THERE'S SOME ONE THERE, IN THE GREAT HALL! IT MUST BE A CARETAKER!
YOU ARE NOT WELCOME! THIS CASTLE IS NOT FOR SALE! WILL YOU PLEASE LEAVE AT ONCE!
WAIT, I OWN THIS CASTLE! HERE IS THE DEED WITH COUNT PERDITO'S NAME ON IT! THE CASTLE IS MINE AND MY WIFE IS THE COUNT'S DAUGHTER?
DEED? I RECOGNIZE NO DEED! I HOLD THIS CASTLE BY MY OWN POWER! I AM MADRONE THE MAN THE PERDITO'S COULD NOT DESTROY!
HEY, GIVE THAT BACK TO ME! YOU MADMAN!
THIS IS WHAT I THINK OF DEEDS! CASTLE PERDITO IS MINE... MINE! I TOOK CARE OF IT FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS!
INFURIATED, BRIAN LUNGED ACROSS THE ROOM AFTER THE RETREATING MADRONE, UNTIL SUDDENLY...
WHERE IS HE? I'LL THROTTLE HIM! WHA... A STONE WALL! HE'S DISAPPEARED!
HA HA
LISTEN, HE'S IN THE ROOM SOMEWHERE! OH BRIAN, I'M AFRAID!
HA HA

BRIAN, IT'S DANGEROUS TO STAY HERE! LET'S LEAVE!
NONESENSE! WE'LL FIND A ROOM AND STAY HERE! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON MADRONE, HE'LL BE GLAD TO LEAVE THIS PLACE!
(YAWN) I'M TIRED! THIS WILL DO FOR THE EVENING, DON'T YOU THINK, THEA?
BRIAN, THAT NOISE! LIKE GIANT FOOT-STEPS COMING THIS WAY! WHAT CAN IT BE?
THUMP TRAMP THUMP
ICY HORROR GRIPPED THEM AS THEY PEERED INTO THE CORRIDOR...
HURRY, MY UGLY STONE BEASTS! I COMMAND YOU TO SEIZE THEM!
THEA, RUN QUICKLY! THOSE CREATURES WILL CRUSH US!
THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM MADRONE! HA! HA! HA!
WE'RE TRAPPED! WE'VE RUN INTO A BLIND ALLEY!
GET BEHIND ME, THEA! I'LL TRY TO BATTER OUR WAY OUT!
GET BACK, YOU STONE HORROR!
YOU HAVE DESTROYED ONE OF MY SERVANTS! FOR THIS YOUR DEATH SHALL BE SLOW AND PAINFUL! TAKE THEM TO THE IRON CHAMBER BELOW!

BRIAN AND THEA WERE THROWN INTO AN IRON CELL...
WE'RE STILL ALIVE, THEA! THERE'S HOPE YET!
FROM THOSE INHUMAN CREATURES AND THAT FIEND MADRONE? ONLY TORTURE LIES AHEAD OF US!
I CAN'T BUDGE THESE BARS! THEY'RE SOLID METAL!
LISTEN TO THAT NOISE! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO THE ROOM!
RUMBLEEE
THE WALLS BEGAN TO CLOSE IN...
WHAT A FIENDISH TRICK! IT'S A TORTURE CHAMBER!
WE'LL BE CRUSHED TO DEATH!
HURRY, LOOSEN THE COBBLESTONES AND FORCE THEM BETWEEN THE FLOOR AND THE WALL! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
BRIAN AND THEA WORKED FEVERISHLY, AND THEN
THE MACHINE SEEMS TO BE GRINDING TO A HALT!
(GASP) FOR THE MOMENT WE'RE SAFE! THE WALLS CAN'T CLOSE ANY MORE!
WITH STARTLING SUDDENNESS, THE WALLS RECEDED...
THEA, THEY'RE COMING BACK! GET READY! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO SURPRISE THEM!
IF MY HANDS WOULD ONLY STOP SHAKING!
WHEN THE DOOR BURST OPEN...
NOW, LET'S RUN FOR IT, BEFORE THEY RECOVER!

THEY FLED DOWN ENDLESS WINDING PASSAGES WITH THE GARGOYLES IN HOT PURSUIT...
B - BRIAN... (PANT)... I CAN'T RUN I'M EXHAUSTED!
THIS ONE, THEA! WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THE OTHER ONE! I WISH I KNEW MY WAY OUT!
LET'S HUG THE WALL! IT'S DARK HERE! MAYBE THEY'LL TURN DOWN ANOTHER CORRIDOR!
BRIAN THE WALL, IT'S MOVING INWARD!
LOOK! A SECRET CHAMBER! BUT WE'VE ESCAPED FROM THOSE STONE BEASTS!
THE PANEL'S SWINGING SHUT! THEY'LL NEVER FIND US HERE!
HEY! WHAT'S THAT?
A MAN... ABSOLUTELY MOTIONLESS! COULD HE POSSIBLY BE ALIVE IN THIS ROOM? THE FURNISHINGS ARE AT LEAST THREE HUNDRED YEARS OLD!
HOW GHASTLY! BUT HE CAN'T HARM US! I WONDER WHO HE IS?
THAT DOCUMENT... THE LAST THING HE WAS DOING BEFORE HE DIED! IT'S IN ITALIAN! YOU CAN READ IT, THEA!
ACCORDING TO THESE NOTES HE'S RUDOLFO PERDITO, MY FATHER'S ANCESTOR! HE ESCAPED AND HID FROM MADRONE WHOM HE CALLS A MAD WIZARD! MADRONE POSSESSES GREAT MAGICAL POWERS, INCLUDING A LIFE BEYOND THE GRAVE!
BUT WHAT IS MADRONE AFTER!
MADRONE IS LOOKING FOR A NON-EXISTENT TREASURE WHICH HE BELIEVED THE PERDITOS HID FROM HIM! AND IT SAYS HERE THAT ONLY A FLAMING SPEAR THRUST THROUGH HIS HEART CAN DESTROY HIM FOREVER!
IF THAT'S THE ONLY SOLUTION, THEN WE MUST RISK IT! WE CAN'T STAY HERE AND STARVE TO DEATH!

THEY LEFT THE SECRET CHAMBER AND MADE THEIR WAY TO THE ENTRANCE HALL WHERE THE FIREPLACE HAD A ROARING FIRE!
NO SIGN OF MADRONE AND HIS BEASTS YET!
WE WERE IN LUCK FINDING THIS SPEAR IN THE HALL! THE POINT IS BLAZING NOW!
SUDDENLY, SHRIEKING CURSES AT THEM, MADRONE APPEARED WITH HIS GRUESOME SERVITORS...
CRUSH THEM! KILL! KILL! THIS TIME YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME!
BRIAN, HURRY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
THIS SPEAR WILL TEAR YOUR EVIL HEART OUT, MADRONE!
ARGGHHH!
LOOK THE GARGOYLES ARE CRUMBLING, FALLING APART! WE'RE FREE, BRIAN, FREE!
MADRONE HAS DISAPPEARED! THE SKELTONS MUST BE THOSE OF THE PERDITOS HE ENSLAVED! THEY'VE BEEN FREED BY HIS DEATH!
C'MON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! THE WHOLE CASTLE SEEMS TO BE BREAKING UP!
WHEN THEY REACHED A POINT OF SAFETY...
JUST IN TIME! THERE WON'T BE A WALL LEFT STANDING!
BRIAN, LOOK! IT'S MY FATHER! HE MUST HAVE FOLLOWED US FROM CANNES!
AFTER THEA TOLD THE COUNT OF THEIR HARROWING EXPERIENCE...
WHY--THIS GARGOYLE LOOKS JUST LIKE MADRONE!
THAT DEVIL MUST INDEED BE DEAD, ONCE AND FOR ALL TIME! HE DESTROYED MY WHOLE FAMILY FOR A TREASURE WHICH DID NOT EXIST!
I MUST THANK YOU, BRIAN, FOR RELEASING THE POOR SPIRITS OF MY ANCESTORS! LET'S RETURN TO CANNES NOW, WHERE I CAN PRESENT YOU TWO WITH A REAL WEDDING PARTY!
YES, AND I NEVER WANT TO GO NEAR ANOTHEIR CASTLE AS LONG AS I LIVE!
THE END
36
G.A. NOVELLE

The DEVIL'S FIDDLE

YOU KNOW YOU REALLY DIDN'T PLAY TOO WELL TONIGHT!
IF ONLY I HAD A STRADIVARIUS, THE WORLD WOULD HEAR MUSIC IT HAD NEVER HEARD BEFORE!

WHO WOULD EVER DREAM THAT THE DROPPING OF A COIN INTO A CUP WOULD BE A PRELUDE TO HORROR... BUT IT WAS...
HERE'S A COIN, OLD MAN... YOU HAVE ABOUT AS LARGE AN AUDIENCE AS I HAD TONIGHT!
THANK YOU, SIR!

THE TWO MEN WERE ABOUT TO GO INTO THE INN WHEN THE OLD BEGGAR SPOKE WORDS THAT STOPPED ANTONIO DEAD IN HIS TRACKS...
SO YOU WOULD LIKE TO OWN A STRADIVARIUS, EH?
WH-WHAT? H-HOW DID YOU KNOW?

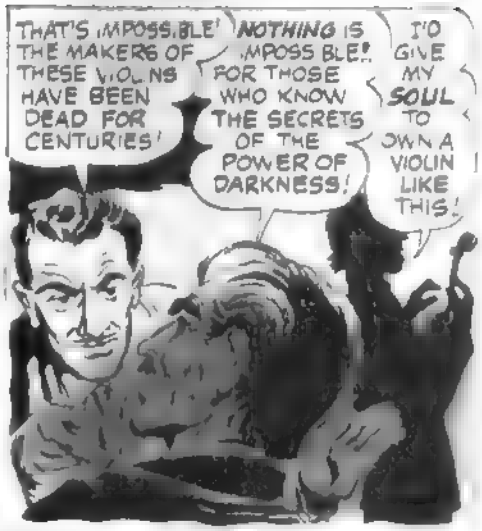
I KNOW MANY THINGS... I KNOW WHERE YOU CAN GET ONE IF YOU WOULD COME WITH ME TO MY COTTAGE!
YES... YES! I'LL COME!

THE OLD BEGGAR LED THEM BACK THROUGH DARK, WINDING STREETS... EACH STEP FILLED MONTI'S HEART WITH INCREASING FEAR...
ULRICO... THERE'S SOMETHING, SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS! LET'S TURN BACK!
DON'T BE A FOOL! MAYBE HE DOES KNOW WHERE TO GET A STRADIVARIUS! IF NOT... WHAT HARM IS DONE?

AND AT LAST THEY REACHED A DESERTED COTTAGE.
HERE IT IS! COME IN, PLEASE!

THE AIR INSIDE THE COTTAGE SEEMED TO BEAR DOWN ON THE TWO MEN WITH AN OPPRESSIVENESS AS IF THEY WERE AT THE BOTTOM OF A GRAVE! IN THAT INSTANT EVEN ANTONIO WOULD HAVE TURNED AND LEFT, EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...
I THINK MAYBE WE'D BETTER...
WAIT! LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT YOU HAVE COME TO SEE!

IT IS A STRAD! WH-WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
VERY SIMPLE... I HAD IT MADE FOR ME!


THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE MAKERS OF THESE VIOLINS HAVE BEEN DEAD FOR CENTURIES!
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE! FOR THOSE WHO KNOW THE SECRETS OF THE POWER OF DARKNESS!
I'D GIVE MY SOUL TO OWN A VIOLIN LIKE THIS!

AT ANTONIO'S WORDS, THE BLIND BEGGAR WHIRLED AND SPOKE, AS THOUGH IN TRIUMPH...
THEN PLAY.. PLAY THE VIOLIN!
NO ULRICO... DON'T!

BUT MONTI'S PLEA WENT UNHEEDED AS ANTONIO'S FINGERS MOVED FASTER AND FASTER ON THE STRINGS...WHILE HIS BOW PRODUCED SOUNDS THAT ECHOED AND RE-ECHOED IN THE COTTAGE, AND AS HE PLAYED... STRANGE AND SHADOWY FIGURES BEGAN TO APPEAR...
BEAUTIFUL! BEAUTIFUL!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE... STOP PLAYING!
STAY AWAY FROM ME!

BUT AS MONTI GRABBED THE VIOLIN
LOOK OUT!

HURRY! EVERYTHING'S ON FIRE! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN GRIPPED THE HEARTS OF THE TWO MEN AS THEY RUSHED MADLY AWAY FROM THE BURNING COTTAGE, THEN...

THE COTTAGE... BURNING...

WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?

QUICK ... THE OLD MAN... TRAPPED...

YOU TWO MEN MUST'VE HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO DRINK! THERE NEVER WAS A BEGGAR ON THIS STREET, AND... AS FOR A BURNING COTTAGE... YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF...

BUT... I SWEAR...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

I KNOW THE SECRET OF GETTING A STRADIVARIUS! IT MUST HAVE BEEN POURED INTO MY BRAIN WHILE I WAS PLAYING THE BEGGAR'S VIOLIN!... NOW... WE HAVE TO HURRY!

WHERE IS THIS PLACE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! IT WAS RIGHT HERE!

THE BLIND BEGGAR LIVED THERE!

YES... THE COTTAGE HAD DISAPPEARED... AS THOUGH IT HAD NEVER EXISTED; AND MONTI FOUND HE COULD NO LONGER HOLD THE HORRIBLE THOUGHT WITHIN...

ANTONIO... DON'T YOU SEE? THE OLD BEGGAR... YOU SAID YOU WOULD GIVE YOUR SOUL FOR THE STRADIVARIUS! WHAT IF HE WERE THE... **DEVIL HIMSELF!**

I DON'T CARE! I HAVE THE ANSWERS NOW! DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS?

ANTONIO WOULD SAY NO MORE AND THAT NIGHT THEY BOARDED A TRAIN... A GNAWING FEAR OF TERROR YET TO COME PREYED ON MONTI'S MIND...

WON'T YOU GIVE UP THIS MAD IDEA BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE? OR... AT LEAST WON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU ARE PLANNING TO DO?

NO, MY FRIEND, IT'S BETTER THAT YOU DON'T KNOW!

ONCE THEY LEFT THE TRAIN THEY WALKED FOR HOUR AFTER HOUR...

HOW MUCH FURTHER WILL WE HAVE TO WALK ULRICO? MY LEGS ARE GETTING WEAK!

ONCE AROUND THAT TURN AND YOU'LL SEE...

IN THAT CASTLE ARE THE REMAINS OF ONE OF THE UNKNOWN MEMBERS OF THE FAMOUS VIOLINMAKING FAMILY! ONCE WE FIND THEM...

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

LOOKING NEITHER TO LEFT NOR RIGHT... AS THOUGH INSPIRED BY SOME UNSEEN VOICE... ANTONIO LED THE WAY INTO THE CRUMBLING CASTLE...

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING?

I *DO* KNOW... AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!

HERE IT IS... JUST AS IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE! HELP ME CARRY IT OUT INTO THE MOONLIGHT!

ULRICO... ULRICO... PLEASE STOP THIS MADNESS!

BUT ANTONIO WAS BEYOND THE POWER OF ANY ARGUMENT AND THE TWO MEN CARRIED THEIR GRISLY BURDEN OUT OF THE CASTLE AND INTO THE OPEN, WHERE THE FULL LIGHT OF THE MOON WAS ABLE TO SHINE DOWN UPON IT! THEN, ANTONIO PICKED UP HIS VIOLIN AND BEGAN TO PLAY...

THAT MUSIC, ULRICO... IT SOUNDS *EVIL!*

LOOK AT THE SKELETON AND YOU'LL SEE HOW *EVIL* IT IS!

GOOD LORD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ULRICO? ***FLESH*** IS APPEARING ON ITS ***BONES!***

THEN SUDDENLY A GHASTLY MOAN ESCAPES THROUGH THE LIPS OF THE MAN.. IF MAN HE COULD BE CALLED... GRADUALLY, HE ROSE AND OPENED HIS MOUTH...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, ULRICO? PUT THIS POOR SOUL BACK TO REST!
DON'T INTERFERE WITH ME!
I KNOW YOU WERE ONCE A FAMOUS VIOLINMAKER! I COMMAND YOU TO MAKE FOR ME A VIOLIN!
YES... MASTER..
DAY AFTER DAY, THE BODY RETURNED FROM THE DEAD AND WORKED ON...
HOW LONG CAN HE CONTINUE LIKE THIS... WITHOUT FOOD OR REST?
UNTIL I COMMAND HIM TO STOP HE IS MINE TO CONTROL!
AND THEN AT LAST..
WONDERFUL! WONDERFUL! GIVE IT TO ME!
IT IS COMPLETED, MASTER!
THE COLD MOONLIGHT SEEMED TO PLAY WITH GREATER INTENSITY AS ANTONIO DREW THE BOW ACROSS THE STRINGS OF HIS NEW VIOLIN! MAYBE IT WAS A PREMONITION OF A GREATER DANGER... MAYBE IT WAS THE FEAR OF THE UNNATURAL FORCES AT WORK... BUT MONTI COULD STAND THE STRAIN NO LONGER...
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, ULRICO! STOP PLAYING THAT CURSED VIOLIN!
THEN SUDDENLY THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH...
OH, MY EYES! MY EYES!
ARGHHHH!

WHEN MONTI FINALLY MANAGED TO RECOVER HIS VISION, WHAT HE SAW WAS ALMOST ENOUGH TO DRIVE HIM OUT OF HIS SENSES...

GOOD LORD! THE SKELETON! ULRICO!

TRYING TO RETAIN HIS SELF CONTROL, MONTI MOVED THE BONES FROM THE BODY OF HIS FRIEND...

ULRICO! IT IS I... YOUR FRIEND!

I CAN'T SEE! I MUST GO TO GENOA... I HAVE WORK TO DO!

THE JOURNEY TO GENOA WAS A SAD ONE! AT LAST THEY REACHED THE SPOT ANTONIO SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR...

MUST GO TO GENOA... MUST GO...

YES, YES... ULRICO! I WILL TAKE YOU THERE!

ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT?

LEAVE ME HERE! I HAVE WORK TO DO!

ANTONIO STOOD AT THAT ONE SPOT PLAYING HIS VIOLIN, UNTIL...

YOU PLAY VERY WELL!

THAT'S BECAUSE I HAVE A STRADIVARIUS! I CAN GET ONE FOR YOU, TOO!

Y-YOU CAN? OH... I'D GIVE ANYTHING I OWN TO HAVE SUCH A VIOLIN!

GOOD! GOOD! COME WITH ME!

YES... EVIL LIVES ON... AND ANTONIO DID HAVE WORK TO DO! A CYCLE OF HORROR ONCE BEGUN, WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS MEN ARE WILLING TO BARGAIN ALL FOR AN INTENSE DESIRE!

THE END

UP FROM THE FETID STENCH OF ROME'S ANCIENT CATACOMBS SWARMED THE HORRIBLE ARMY — STRANGE AND SINISTER BEYOND BELIEF, SWORN TO DESTROY HUMANITY IN THEIR TERRIBLE BONE CRUNCHING JAWS, SLAVERING AFTER THE SMELL OF HUMAN BLOOD! AND TO THIS FEARFUL SCOURGE WAS ADDED THE GREED AND LUST FOR POWER OF ONE MAN WHO IN TURN WAS TO MEET **THE GREEN HORDE...**

FIENDS from the CRYPT

HE'S GETTING AWAY, SIGNOR COMMISSIONER!
NOT YET! I KNOW THESE SEWERS AS WELL AS HE DOES!

WHY DON'T YOU FIRE, SIGNOR?
NO! I WANT TO TAKE THIS ONE ALIVE IF I CAN! AFTER ALL, HE'S ONLY A PETTY CROOK!

UGH, THESE SEWER RATS GIVE ME THE CREEPS! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THEM!
DON'T BE AN OLD WOMAN! HURRY UP!

I'M CERTAIN HE DUCKED DOWN THIS WAY! AND THIS PASSAGE LEADS INTO THE OLD CATACOMBS, SO HE CAN'T GET FAR!

SUDDENLY THE TUNNEL IS FILLED WITH THE FRENZIED SCREAMS OF A MAN IN MORTAL TERROR...
FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN, SIGNOR! DID YOU HEAR THAT?
HORRIBLE! AND THAT WAS BANCO'S VOICE! DOWN THIS WAY!

THEIR FLASHLIGHTS PICK OUT A LEERING, GRUESOME THING...
GAAA! LOOK, IT'S BANCO! A MOMENT AGO HE WAS A MAN— NOW HE'S ONLY A S-SKELETON!
B-BUT WHAT COULD HAVE DONE THIS, SIGNOR?

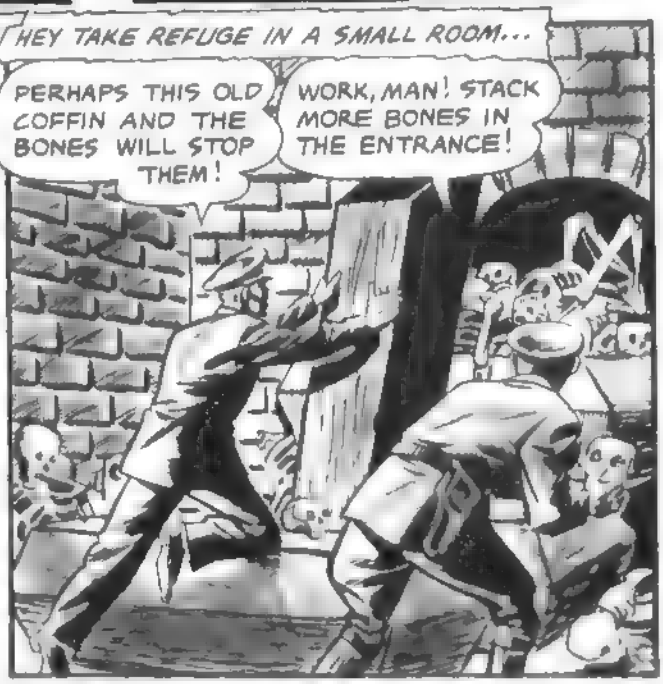
THERE IS SOMETHING EVIL IN THIS PLACE, SIGNOR COMMISSIONER! LET US GET OUT OF HERE AT ONCE!
KEEP YOUR NERVE, MAN! THERE MUST BE SOME EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS! BUT WE'D BETTER REPORT BACK TO THE STATION!

BUT...
THE PASSAGE—IT'S BLOCKED NOW! B-BUT JUST A MOMENT AGO THERE WAS NO DOOR HERE!
WE MUST FIND ANOTHER WAY OUT, SIGNOR! AT ONCE!

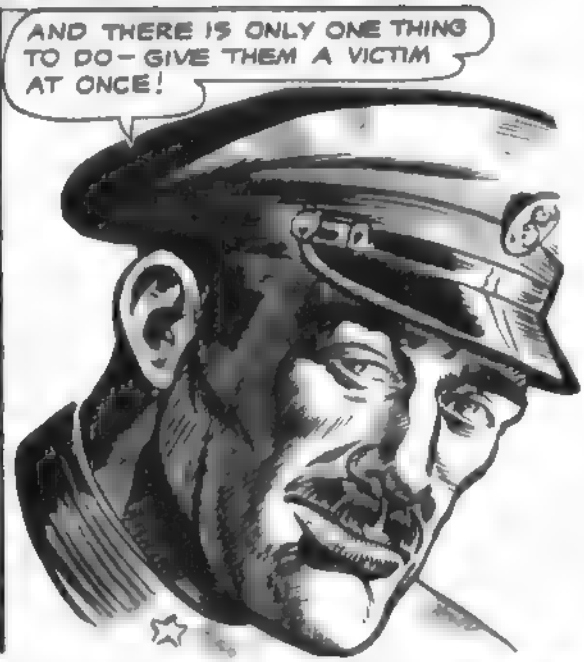
WHILE DESPERATELY SEEKING A WAY OUT, THE MEN WANDER DEEPER INTO THE CATACOMBS...
PHEW, THAT SMELL IS HORRIBLE! THESE CAVERNS HAVE BEEN SEALED FOR CENTURIES!
I BEGIN TO THINK WE ARE TRAPPED, SIGNOR! AND JUST THEN I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING!

YAAAAAAAA! SIGNOR, LOOK! THOSE THINGS...

MONSTERS—AND THEY'RE COMING AFTER US! THEY'LL TEAR US TO PIECES!
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE, MAN! RUN!
AGRRRR—
UBBLEE-


THEY TAKE REFUGE IN A SMALL ROOM...
PERHAPS THIS OLD COFFIN AND THE BONES WILL STOP THEM!
WORK, MAN! STACK MORE BONES IN THE ENTRANCE!

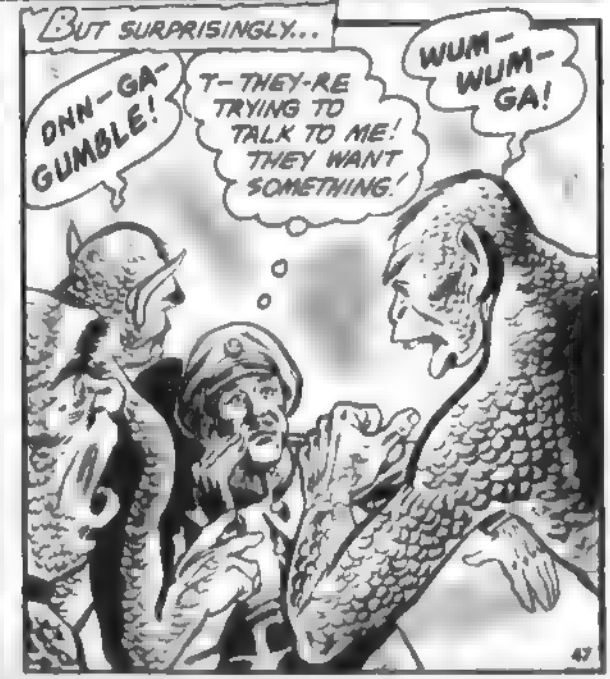
LOOK! ONE OF THOSE THINGS R-REACHING FOR US!
Y-YES! IT WILL GET US UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING!


AND THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO— GIVE THEM A VICTIM AT ONCE!

GRUM— BRRRRR— GROUU—
YOU, PIETRO! THEY WANT A VICTIM AND IT MUST BE ONE OF US! SO LET IT BE YOU! OUT YOU GO!
NO! AAAAAAAA—

SAVE ME! DON'T LET THEM... EEEEEYAAAAAAA—

THERE IS A MOMENT OF DREADFUL RESPITE, THEN THE CREATURES COME CRASHING IN...
EROG—DROOOO— GUBB!
T-THEY WANT ME NOW! UGH— WHAT MONSTERS THEY ARE— FIENDS OUT OF HADES!


BUT SURPRISINGLY...
DNN—GA— GUMBLE!
T-THEY-RE TRYING TO TALK TO ME! THEY WANT SOMETHING!
WUM— WUM— GA!

THE FIERCE MONSTERS DO INDEED WANT TO MAKE A BARGAIN— AND AFTER A LONG TIME, SIGNOR RENZI UNDERSTANDS WHAT THEY WANT! AT THE SAME TIME HE HATCHES A FIENDISH PLAN OF HIS OWN...

SOON AFTERWARD A REIGN OF TERROR BEGINS IN ROME! SIGNOR RENZI, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, SEES HIS CHANCE TO MAKE A FORTUNE...

AT THAT MOMENT IN THE VAULT OF THE BANK OF ROME...

BUT IT'S TOO LATE..

AND THE WEIRD CREATURES, INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO FOLLOW SIGNOR RENZI'S ORDERS, LOOT THE VAULT OF MILLIONS IN GOLD...

LATER AS THE SIGNOR KEEPS A RENDEZVOUS IN THE GLOOMY CATACOMBS...

GRUM-BOOOOO-
COME ALONG NOW AND GET YOUR-(SHUDDER)-REWARD! JUST DOWN HERE THE CATACOMBS RUN UNDER A REHABILITATION CENTER! YOU CAN HAVE THEM!
UGHHR!-
MORBA-

MMFFFF-
RIGHT UP THIS LADDER NOW! IT LEADS INTO THE BARRACKS!
BOOGLE!

THIS IS A TERRIBLE THING I'M DOING, BUT I MUST! I PROMISED THEM VICTIMS IN RETURN FOR OBEDIENCE-AND IF I DON'T GIVE THEM THESE PEOPLE, THEY'LL TAKE-ME!

FROM ABOVE COMES A SUDDEN, HORRIBLE OUTCRY...
THOSE CREATURES! SAVE US! HELP!
GRUNNNT-
AAA-HELP!
EEEEEEE-

DORN PHLUUU-
N-NO! OHHHHHHH-AAAAAAAAAAA!

I CAN'T STAND THOSE TERRIBLE SOUNDS ANY LONGER! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I GO MAD!

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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***FREE*: NEW THRILLING SENSATION**

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HAVE ALL THE FUN OF PRIVATE MOVIES NOW AT THIS LOW PRICE

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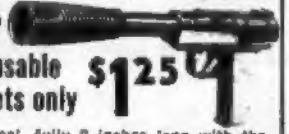
Pellet Firing Target Pistol

and SILENCER



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With Combination Lock Only You Can Open

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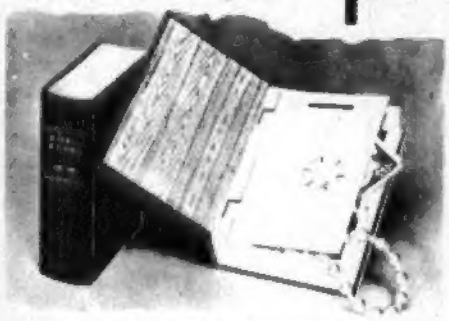

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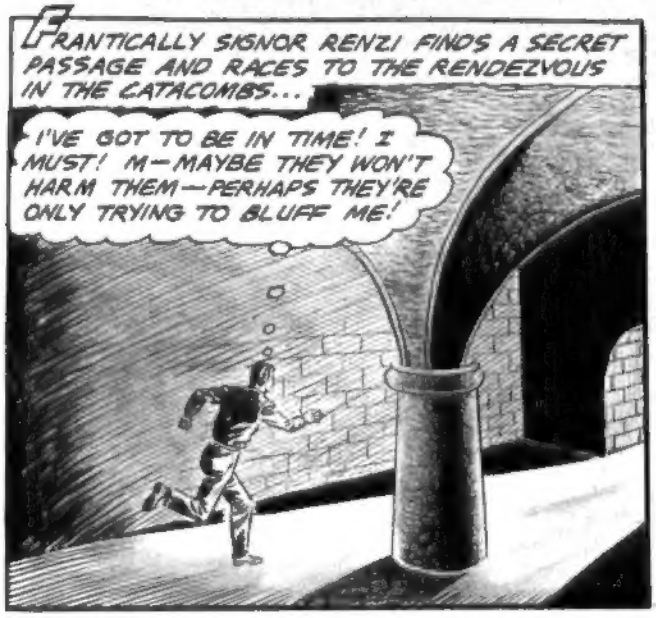

*MEANING: HE WAS A FOOL AND A KNAVE, AND WAS DOOMED FROM THE START!